

# Sustainability Strategy

2022—2025



**Monash  
Health**

# Table of contents

<b>A message from the Chief Executive</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Executive summary</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>6</b>
About the organisation .....	<b>8</b>
Scope .....	<b>8</b>
<b>Focus areas for sustainability</b> .....	<b>9</b>
Buildings and infrastructure .....	<b>10</b>
Energy efficiency and emissions .....	<b>10</b>
Organisational culture .....	<b>11</b>
Procurement .....	<b>11</b>
Transport and travel .....	<b>12</b>
Waste management .....	<b>12</b>



## Acknowledgement of country

Monash Health respectfully acknowledges the peoples of the Kulin Nation, the Traditional Custodians and owners of the lands where our healthcare facilities are located and programs operate. We recognise the ongoing spiritual link Aboriginal People have to their lands, culture and lore; and acknowledge that their connections build healthier families and communities. We pay respect to the Elders of the Kulin Nation; past, present and emerging, and we extend that respect to our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees, our consumers and our stakeholders.

## Acknowledgements

Monash Health also wishes to acknowledge Nation Partners for leading the stakeholder workshops and providing background reports that supported the development of this plan.

# A message from the Chief Executive

I am pleased to present Monash Health's Sustainability Strategy 2022-2025, which sets out our commitment to the environment and describes how we will continue to improve the sustainability of our operations.

As Victoria's largest health service, we have a responsibility to reduce our impact on the environment and to demonstrate sustainable healthcare practices.

Our role as a leader in healthcare extends beyond caring for people in the present to caring for people in generations to come.

Recognising this, we are developing a culture of environmental accountability.

This Strategy commits us to action, including reducing energy consumption, emissions, and waste. We aim to improve our buildings' environmental standards, adopt sustainable procurement practices and engage and empower our employees and key stakeholders to create a sustainability culture.

I encourage everyone to support and participate in our pursuit of excellence in sustainability – today, tomorrow and together.



**Professor Andrew Stripp**  
Chief Executive, Monash Health

## Executive summary

In our Monash Health Strategic Plan 2023, we committed to managing our resources wisely and sustainably to provide value to our community. In line with this core strategic principle, we are committed to promoting sustainability and minimising the impact of our services on the environment.

The Sustainability Strategy 2022-2025 and its supporting action plan set consistent direction and guidance for environmental planning and decision-making at Monash Health.

Monash Health has identified six focus areas for sustainability:

- Buildings and infrastructure
- Energy efficiency and emissions
- Organisational culture
- Procurement
- Transport and travel
- Waste management



# Introduction



## **Sustainable healthcare improves, maintains or restores health while minimising negative impacts on the environment and leveraging opportunities to restore and improve it.**

All Victorians have a role to play in making Victoria a more sustainable state for future generations and maintaining our status as one of the world's most liveable places.

Victorian Government departments and agencies, including health services, have a key contribution to make by integrating sustainability into their planning, operations and policy decisions.

The Department of Health is embedding sustainability principles in its activities and is committed to embedding sustainability within the broader Victorian public health system. An integral part of this is the adoption of appropriate environmental management planning processes at the health service level, such as this Sustainability Strategy for Monash Health.

We are committed to managing our resources wisely and sustainably to provide value to our community. In line with this core strategic principle, we are committed to the promotion of sustainability and minimising the impact of our services on the environment.

As a large health service, Monash Health has significant energy requirements, including the demands of essential medical equipment, heating and cooling of our buildings, lighting, cleaning and operational equipment.

We generate complex and high-volume waste streams, some of which require energy and chemical-intensive waste treatments such as incineration and autoclaving.

As we serve a large geographic area, travel by patients, employees and visitors is an integral part of the way we deliver our services. This extends to home visits and remote rural areas, and consequently, our travel-related carbon emissions are considerable.

We are also a high-volume consumer of products, including pharmaceuticals, medical equipment and supplies, and surgical instruments, a proportion of which are single-use items.

Responding to these challenges, Monash Health has committed to reducing our environmental impact by setting key objectives and implementing a Sustainability Strategy to achieve them.



# About the organisation



## Monash Health is Victoria’s largest public health service. We provide safe, high-quality care to one-quarter of Melbourne’s population, across the entire lifespan, from pre-birth to end-of-life.

### We improve the health of our communities through:

- Prevention and early intervention
- Community and home-based treatment and rehabilitation
- Specialised surgical; and medical diagnosis; treatment and monitoring services
- Hospital and community-based mental health services
- Comprehensive sub-acute and aged care and palliative care programs
- Research and teaching the next generation of healthcare professionals


More than 22,000 staff members work at over 40 care locations across south eastern Melbourne, including Monash Medical Centre, Monash Children’s Hospital, Moorabbin Hospital, Dandenong Hospital, Casey Hospital, Kingston Centre, Cranbourne Centre, and an extensive network of rehabilitation, aged care, community health and mental health facilities.

### Each year, on average:


 we provide more than  
**3.2m**  
episodes of care to our community

 we facilitate more than  
**250,000**  
hospital admissions

 we respond to more than  
**200,000**  
emergency presentations

 we respond to more than  
**65,000**  
ambulance arrivals

 we deliver around  
**10,000**  
babies

 we perform over  
**40,000**  
surgical operations

Monash Health is expected to experience significant growth in services over the next five years, and it is therefore essential that we implement sustainable initiatives across all our operations and services to minimise our environmental footprint.

## Scope

This Strategy addresses all relevant aspects of the operation of Monash Health, including all sites, agency activities and the delivery of services under the direct management of the organisation, including but not limited to:

- Hospitals and residential aged care services
- Corporate offices and facilities
- Support services
- Education/research
- Delivery of campaigns/programs/events
- Community-based health services
- New capital works



**Focus areas  
for sustainability**



## Buildings and infrastructure

Rapid population growth, an ageing population and an increase in chronic illness are all expected to contribute to significant growth in Monash Health's services within the next five years and beyond.

Monash Health will embed best-practice sustainability standards for its new, existing, and redevelopment projects as we adapt, evolve, and expand our buildings and infrastructure to meet this demand. The organisation will also explore and implement water reduction and harvesting initiatives, improve local biodiversity and deliver efficient and climate-resilient infrastructure.

### Goal

- Deliver best-practice sustainability standards to all new, existing and redevelopment capital works with a focus on building climate-resilient infrastructure.

### Objectives

- Capital works are in line with sustainability guidelines.
- Explore and implement water reduction and water harvesting initiatives across all facilities.
- Improve local biodiversity, reduce flood risk, and improve stormwater quality in local waterways.



## Energy efficiency and emissions

Monash Health is committed to aligning and supporting the Victorian Government's roadmap to net-zero emissions and a climate-resilient Victoria by 2050.

Energy use in Australia continues to rise, with the majority derived from non-renewable fossil fuel sources, which release Greenhouse Gas emissions (GHG) when burned. Increasing greenhouse gas emissions are the key cause of climate change, which is already having observable and adverse effects in Australia and around the world.

By improving and optimising energy efficiency and transitioning to clean, renewable energy sources, Monash Health will help address this global issue while continuing to meet the needs of our community.

### Goal

- Improve and optimise energy efficiency to reduce emissions.

### Objectives

- Reduce energy consumption relative to patient demand across the organisation.
- Prioritise electricity from renewable sources.
- Work towards net-zero emissions.



## Organisational culture

Integral to the success of any sustainability plan is the top-down establishment of a strong sustainability culture, focused on shared objectives and accountability.

Monash Health will embed sustainability into all aspects of its strategic and operational approach, including decision-making processes, allocating key roles and responsibilities, communication, education, monitoring and reporting, and partnerships.

### Goal

- Engage, educate and empower our employees and community to create a culture of sustainability.

### Objectives

- Communicate and celebrate sustainability stories and successes across the organisation.
- Embed sustainability into day-to-day operations.
- Demonstrate leadership and foster collaboration on sustainability matters both internally and externally.
- Train and engage employees and consumers in sustainability.
- Promote transparency by monitoring, evaluating and regularly reporting on sustainability performance.
- Pursue continual improvement in sustainability performance.



## Procurement

As Victoria's largest public health service, Monash Health procures a substantial and broad range of goods and services.

Monash Health can use this buying power in a way that maximises environmental, social and economic outcomes for the organisation, while influencing suppliers and the supply chain to provide safer, more sustainable products made under fair working conditions.

### Goal

- Prioritise sustainable products and equipment, while positively influencing suppliers to do the same.

### Objectives

- Prioritise sustainable alternatives over standard goods, products and equipment, where possible.
- Reduce packaging.
- Engage with suppliers to raise awareness of sustainability and promote the benefits of a circular economy.
- Sustainability is integrated into procurement processes as part of the Monash Health Social Procurement Strategy.



## Transport and travel

Transport is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions across the world, and the health sector is a transportation-intensive industry.

Monash Health can help address this issue by exploring opportunities to reduce the need to travel, transitioning fleet vehicles towards more sustainable technologies (such as hybrid and electric vehicles), allowing flexible remote working practices, and promoting more sustainable modes of transport like cycling and walking.

### Goal

- Promote and transition to sustainable modes of transport while minimising the impact associated with travel for our employees, patients and visitors.

### Objectives

- Reconfigure and optimise the use of fleet vehicles.
- Promote and invest in the use of sustainable transport options and travel.
- Encourage flexible remote working practices, including virtual meetings and working from home, where applicable.



## Waste management

The Australian economy has primarily been based on a linear system of 'take, make and dispose'.

Environmental, economic and geopolitical issues mean traditional patterns of resource use are no longer sustainable, and reincorporating materials back into the productive economy is crucial.

Given Monash Health's large and complex waste streams, its scale of operations and rigorous infection prevention measures, managing waste sustainably and maximising opportunities to re-use and recycle will significantly reduce our organisation's environmental footprint.

### Goal

- Sustained waste reduction while maximising opportunities to re-use and recycle.

### Objectives

- Maintain existing and implement new waste reduction, recycling and re-use programs across all sites.



**Corporate Office**

246 Clayton Road, Clayton

**T:** 03 9594 6666

**E:** [info@monashhealth.org](mailto:info@monashhealth.org)

**[www.monashhealth.org](http://www.monashhealth.org)**

ABN 82 142 080 338